presently returns and settles down again, there is plausibility in the suggestion that this behaviour is merely a case of disturbed physical equilibrium followed by restoration of equilibrium. But the long course of arduous and highly varied activities which result in the nest, constructed according to the pattern of the species in a situation proper to the species, is not so plausibly explained by that principle. Still less plausible is its application to the sustained migratory flight of a bird, in which perhaps it strains its powers and resources to the extreme limit, following, from a spot near the North Pole, a route common to the species which leads it to Patagonia, and later returning north by another route also peculiar and common to the species. In some such cases, the routes followed clearly owe their peculiarities to distributions of land and water that obtained in bygone ages. And when we are asked to accept the same tendency to return to equilibrium as the adequate physical explanation of the months and years of effort devoted by a man to an attempt to reach the Pole or the summit of Mt. Everest, *c'est pour rire.*

The peculiar properties of any physical *Gestalt* are what they are independently of the history of the parts which enter into it and of its own formation-processes, which latter might have taken any one of many different courses. On the other hand, each specific type of organism can have had only the one history, the course of evolution which has made it what it is; a course partly determined by a multitude of environmental conditions

which have ceased to exist millions of years ago; conditions of which the only remaining records are perhaps these various imprints on the protoplasm of living beings faithfully perpetuated, while such more solid structures as continents and mountain ranges have dissolved.